Aspect: English Grammar
Topic: Conjunction

Introduction

A conjunction is a word that joins words, phrases, or clauses together in a sentence. It acts like a *bridge* that connects ideas to make sentences smoother and more meaningful.

Simple definition for young learners:

A conjunction is a joining word. Example: I like tea and coffee.

Expanded definition for higher levels:

In grammar, a conjunction is a part of speech used to link words, groups of words, or clauses, showing relationships such as addition, contrast, choice, cause, or condition. Conjunctions can be coordinating, subordinating, or correlative, depending on their function.

Types of Conjunction

A. Basic Types (For Primary & Junior Levels)

1. **Coordinating Conjunctions** – Join words, phrases, or independent clauses of equal importance. **FANBOYS** *for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so*
   Example: She is tall ***and*** smart.

2. **Subordinating Conjunctions** – Join a dependent clause to an independent clause, showing a relationship.
   because, although, since, if, when, while, unless
   Example: I stayed home ***because*** it was raining.

3. **Correlative Conjunctions** – Work in pairs to join equal elements.
   either…or, neither…nor, both…and, not only…but also
   Example: I will ***either*** call you ***or*** send a message.

B. Advanced Classifications (For Senior Levels)

1. Concessive Conjunctions – Show contrast despite a condition.
   though, although, even though
2. Cause-and-Effect Conjunctions – Show reason or result.
   so that, in order that, because
3. Condition Conjunctions – Show a condition.
   if, unless, provided that, as long as
4. Time Conjunctions – Show when something happens.
   before, after, until, while, since
5. Purpose Conjunctions – Show intention.
   so that, in order that

How to Identify a conjunction

Teachers can guide students to ask:

- Is the word connecting two ideas, words, or clauses?
- Can the sentence be split into parts connected by this word?
- Is the conjunction showing a relationship (addition, contrast, time, reason, etc.)?

Example:
I like bread ***and*** butter. (and joins bread + butter)
We left early ***because*** it was raining. (because joins main clause + reason clause)

Usage of Conjunctions in Sentences

A. Joining Words
Peter ***and*** John are friends.
B. Joining Phrases
We can go to the park ***or*** the beach.
C. Joining Clauses
I wanted to go out, ***but*** it started raining.
D. Showing Relationships
Cause: She passed the exam ***because*** she studied hard.
Contrast: He is poor, ***yet*** he is happy.
Choice: You can have tea ***or*** coffee.

Engaging Classroom Activities

For Primary Level

- **Conjunction Fill-in:** Fill in blanks with and, but, or.
- **Joining Game:** Give students two short sentences; they join them with a conjunction.
- **Word Match:** Match two halves of a sentence using conjunctions.

For Junior Level

- **Conjunction Sort:** Classify conjunctions into coordinating, subordinating, and correlative.
- **Sentence Builder:** Give clauses for students to connect meaningfully.
- **Story Links:** Students write a short story using at least 5 conjunctions.

For Senior Level

- **Complex Sentence Practice:** Use subordinating conjunctions to join ideas.
- **Correlative Challenge:** Use each correlative conjunction in a sentence.
- **Error Correction:** Identify and fix conjunction misuse in given passages.

Exercises

A. Identify the conjunctions in the following sentences:

1. I like apples and oranges.
2. She stayed home because she was sick.
3. He will either call you or send a message.
4. I tried to help, but he refused.
5. You can stay here until I return.

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions:

1. He is rich _____ unhappy.
2. We will stay here _____ the rain stops.
3. You can have coffee _____ tea.

C. Join the following sentences using the given conjunctions:

1. She was tired. She continued working. (although)
2. We can go to the park. We can go to the zoo. (or)
3. He studied hard. He passed the exam. (so)

Teacher Tips for Engagement

- **Link to real life:** Use students' preferences in examples.
- **Visual aids:** Show diagrams of sentence structures with conjunctions.
- **Group work:** Give each group a type of conjunction to create examples for.
- **Incremental learning:** Start with and, but, or before moving to complex subordinating forms.

Suggested Subtopics for Further Reading

- Coordinating conjunctions and the **FANBOYS** acronym
- Punctuation rules with conjunctions
- Conjunctions in complex sentences
- Avoiding overuse of conjunctions
- Conjunctive adverbs vs. conjunctions

Sample Lesson Flow (All Levels)

- Warm-up – Sentence-joining quickfire round.
- Presentation – Explain types with basic and advanced examples.
- Practice – Classify conjunctions or build sentences using them.
- Production – Write a paragraph using at least 7 different conjunctions.
- Review & Feedback – Recap definition, types, and usage.